The Highlander

Thursday **Nov 27 2025** | Issue 717

YOUR OPINION COUNTS - FILL OUT OUR SURVEY PAGE 9 **FREE**

Jolly jogging

Braden and Morgan Roberts were both naughty and nice, rocking a two-person sweater, while posing with daughter, Georgia and dog, Darla, at the 12th annual Jolly Jog in Haliburton Nov 23. See more page 17. *Photo by Steven Sherwood.*

Dysart council 'not environmental pirates'

By Mike Baker

While Dysart et al council this week toyed with the idea of a lengthy deferral for proposed changes to the township's official plan (OP) and zoning amendment bylaw - which would allow certain structures to be built closer to a lake's shoreline - elected officials indicated, following a Nov. 25 public meeting, they're ready to approve a new policy.

Council has spent much of 2025 discussing a proposal that would allow waterfront property owners to install any one of a gazebo, shed or sauna within feet of, or in one case actually on, the shore. In his staff report, director of planning Jeff Iles noted the amendment would see gazebos allowed within zero metres of shore, a shed within five metres, and a sauna within 10 metres.

"Currently, no buildings are permitted within the water setback. The amendments are looking to update the policy to allow one accessory building," Iles said.

The director had previously recommended against proceeding with the change. Current rules stipulate any structure has to be located at least 20 metres from the water. After a thorough public process, which included releasing a survey, holding two open houses and, before this week, one public meeting, Iles questioned whether there was enough public demand to justify altering policies that have been in place for over 20 years.

Continued **'We'** on page 2

Highlander news

‘We believe science has not been applied’

Continued from page 1

In the survey, 56 per cent of 735 respondents said they were in favour of the change, with 40 per cent opposed and four per cent unsure. At a July public meeting, one of 18 speakers supported the plan.

It was a different story on Tuesday, with more of an even split between delegations – four for and two against.

Following a lengthy discussion, council appeared to favour deferring the issue again, with councillors Pat Casey and Carm Sawyer eager for more public feedback. Mayor Murray Fearrey suggested tabling until next year’s municipal election, where the township could hold a referendum.

After Iles cautioned against delaying, noting how anyone who has wanted to provide comments has had ample opportunity to do so, elected officials pivoted. They started to talk about how they could make the amendments more palatable for those opposed.

“If we change the setbacks at all, would that be beneficial? If we said gazebos had to be a bit further back, sheds too, would that appease anybody,” Sawyer asked.

Iles felt there was a “happy medium.” After some back-and-forth, council landed on allowing gazebos to be placed five metres from a lake, while saunas and sheds would remain where they are – a 20-metre setback for saunas and 20-metre setback for sheds on properties built before 2005, or 30-metres for those constructed after.

Iles said he would try to bring an amendment back to council for approval at its Dec. 9 meeting.

What was said

Speaking to the suggested rules – 10 metres for a sauna, five metres for a shed, and zero for a gazebo – Iles said the only way staff felt comfortable agreeing with that was by imposing three requirements – prior to construction of an accessory building, the shoreline vegetation must be restored to a natural state; the development area is not increasing beyond what is currently permitted, which is 20 sq. metres for all combined structures, including decks and stairs; and to increase enforcement.

Council felt those conditions, particularly the one for increased enforcement, would be difficult to meet, hence the change in direction.

Carolyn Langdon believes in maintaining natural shorelines and opposed Dysart’s proposal to allow gazebos, sheds and saunas close to shore. *File.*

Iles noted the township received 38 written comments addressing the change, with 20 opposed, five in favour, and 13 asking question/providing comments but offering no opinion.

Carolyn Langdon, representing the Lake Kashagawigamog Organization (LKO), said the chain lake has serious water quality issues and felt the proposed changes would create more problems.

“Two of our three testing sites have deepwater dissolved oxygen readings well-below the provincial threshold required for reproduction and survival of lake trout. Lake Kash had one of the highest readings of dissolved solids in the County,” Langdon said. “Increased nutrient loading from shoreline buildings will exacerbate things. We need to do the opposite and actually lessen the numbers of these things going in.”

Iles noted about six per cent of Dysart’s estimated 8,500 waterfront properties have some form of shoreline structure.

Dayle Hawkins, LKO president, said, “all lake associations are against this. Science indicates accessory buildings erode shoreline protection and increase phosphorous loading. We believe science has not been applied to the proposal.”

Submissions were received from associations on Redstone, Kennisis, Miskwabi, Percy and Grace lakes, with all opposing the move. Figureheads from Environment Haliburton! Harcourt Park and the Coalition of Haliburton Property Owners’ Associations also spoke against the amendment, feeling it would negatively impact local lakes.

Dale Leadbeater called on council to live up to a key statement in its land acknowledgement, read out before each meeting.

“It talks about Dysart promising Indigenous people who cared for these lands and waters and welcomed us as their guest, to pay them respect by… supporting the health and integrity of the lands for generations to come,” Leadbeater said. “If approved, it will only demonstrate that we have learned nothing over the last 500 years.”

Those in favour

Casey took exception to the many comments claiming council doesn’t care about lake health.

“We’re not environmental pirates seeking to destroy the lakes. Most members of council have been here for generations. We’re very well aware of the value of tourism, our lakes and everything of the sort,” Casey said. “This was [proposed] to absolve a bunch a problems we see regularly on our agenda… we didn’t take on this journey to be detrimental to lake health, or be a problem to the public.”

Several residents spoke in favour of the change – Jeff Smallwood, who lives in Harcourt Park, said allowing a shed closer to the water would be beneficial for properties with a steep incline from the shore to their home or cottage.

“Our property has a 45-degree angle… it’s about 60 feet of length and 80 feet of height, so a large hill. Being able to put fishing equipment and a motor in a structure by the lake would make the lake more usable,” Smallwood said.

Glen Lindsay, on Lipsy Lake, agreed. With his home sitting atop a 40-foot hill, he wants to build a small shed by the water.

“If you look at the science, it probably says we shouldn’t have people living on lakes. But we do, because that’s our community. This is part of it too,” Lindsay said. “It’s a shed, a gazebo, or a sauna. It’s not going to melt the planet, I promise you. This is really getting blown out of proportion.”

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Highlander news

A rendering of the Hops Drive redevelopment. *Design by Justin Sherry.*

Another round for beer store plaza

By Lisa Gervais

The owners of the Hops Drive plaza in Haliburton are planning a "significant investment" in the building; including renovating to accommodate a large Pet Valu store in the space to be vacated by The Beer Store after Jan. 11 2026.

Adam Brind has owned the building since 2021. He said after NAPA Auto Parts left the plaza, he built their new location on Industrial Park Road. He said Pet Valu reached out nearly 18 months ago, but at the time, there was no vacancy.

That changed with The Beer Store confirming it would be closing its Haliburton location.

Brind said, "now, Pet Valu will be taking over all of The Beer Store and two-thirds of the old NAPA space, about 5,500 sq. ft., growing quite substantially from their current location (on Highland Street)." He said they wanted more space and better parking.

Brind said while they were "just as upset as everybody else about them (The Beer Store) leaving" it was "a good time to transition to a new tenant and Pet Valu was there."

The other tenants are McFadden's Meat Market and Pharmasave – Haliburton Village Pharmacy.

Brind said the project will consist of three phases: interior renovations, including combining two units for Pet Valu; exterior work, including windows, doors, new cladding and canopies; and the parking lot, including asphalt, curbs and landscaping. Work is underway and he hopes to have it complete by July. Pet Valu is expected to take possession in early April and open mid-to-late June or early July.

Pet Valu confirmed the move to *The Highlander* last week.

Sharing the renderings, Brind said, "it's really going to change that whole area, that whole building, and Hops Drive."

In terms of aesthetics, he added, "we want to make it look like it belongs in Haliburton and feels like cottage country. Our goal is to keep the building in-line with the vernacular of the community, including wood siding, beautiful new windows, etc."

With the A&W plaza now in place, Brind thinks the area is bringing much-needed commercial development to Haliburton.

"There is really no place to grow in Haliburton. We are very bullish on that area. We're very excited about it. We think that Haliburton is growing quickly. We love the idea of being a part of that growth, definitely love the idea of improving some of the architecture here and modernizing it. We're excited about this project. In the long-term, we have no intent of selling buildings. We believe in Haliburton and we believe in our tenants and we're here to stay."

Four Haliburton staff impacted

The decision to shutter The Beer Store (TBS) in Haliburton affects a manager and three part-time workers, the union representing TBS employees said.

John Nock, president of the UFCW Canada Local 12R24 confirmed the numbers in an email to *The Highlander* Nov. 21.

He noted staff will have the choice of relocating to another store or accepting a severance package.

He added, "this is store 120 that has closed as part of (Premier Doug) Ford's idea to make alcohol more convenient. The Beer Store brought price stability and a place to return all empty alcohol containers. Our members have responsibly sold alcohol for almost 100 years."

Nock said, "people have not said 'I can't find a beer to buy'. They say they can't find a doctor, or wait hours at the hospital (are too long); or daycare is unaffordable. Ford puts his priorities in making alcohol more convenient in his opinion."

Dollarama update

Meanwhile, Dollarama has indicated the opening of its planned Haliburton location, in a new building on Hops Drive, isn't imminent.The company advertised job postings for a manager and assistant manager in Haliburton in late 2024.

Asked if they were still hiring, spokesperson Lyla Radmanovich said, "we do not have a confirmed store opening at this site. Given Dollarama's continued growth across Canada and the high volume of real estate activity, our policy is to provide comment only when a new store opening is confirmed and scheduled."

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Highlander news

HIGHLANDS EAST NEWS

Burton back as County warden

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton will be sworn in for his second consecutive term as County warden Dec. 9.

According to a report to the Nov. 26 County council meeting, Burton was the only nominee. He was nominated by councillors Murray Fearrey and Cec Ryall.

CAO Gary Dyke said, "in the absence of other nomination forms, an election is not required and the acclamation and swearing in of coun. Burton will occur on Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the council chambers.

Burton will serve in 2026.

He told *The Highlander* Nov. 25, "I'm looking forward to it. We have a lot of projects on the go. I'd like to get the budget set and get on with the projects and just work along with staff and council and get a few things accomplished."

Highlands East mayor Dave Burton was elected as County warden in December 2024. He will be acclaimed on Dec. 9. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Facility rental automation project

Highlands East staff, at a Nov. 18 meeting, reported back to council on how the new automated facility rental system is doing.

Deputy treasurer Heath Swannell said it's improving the renter experience, streamlining staff workload, and delivering value to residents.

He tabled a report with key performance indicators, collected from renter feedback forms, summarizing "what the municipality is hearing from our community and members of staff."

Swannell said the project modernizes how residents book municipal spaces by streamlining requests, approvals, and communications through their Microsoft 365 environment. "This allows interested parties to check availability outside of regular business hours while also reducing manual processes for staff."

Under ease of booking and payment process, they received top scores of four or five.

He added key insights were: "residents find booking easy and accessible; staff are consistently described as helpful and responsive; value for money is perceived as strong; and minor suggestions for improvement include advance notice regarding potable water, kitchen equipment maintenance, and booking form usability."

Finding volunteer firefighters

Fire chief Chris Baughman said the department was having success recruiting volunteer firefighters.

In his firefighter appointment report, he asked council to appoint three people to the roster for a 12-month probationary period.

The new recruits include: Michael Mochulla to Station 1 in Cardiff; David Greene to Station 2 in Highland Grove and Jack Hudson to Station 3 in Gooderham.

Burton said, "congratulations, Chris, I'm glad we're picking a few up." Baughman said there were "a few more" applications in the works as well.

Coun. Angela Lewis noted "Paudash and Highland Grove have really been out there trying to recruit for the roster, so that's looking good." She added she would like to know how many applications are coming in, in future reports. "Just so people know it's actually paying off; they're getting out there and talking to people."

(Highlands East news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

The KHCAS office at 73 Victoria St. in Haliburton. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Children's Aid Society overturns closure

By Lisa Gervais

The Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society (KHCAS) will not be shutting its office in Haliburton after all.

In August 2024, the agency announced its intention to close the doors at 73 Victoria St. and drop one full-time staff member.

However, on Oct. 23 of that year, the provincial government appointed a temporary supervisor for the KHCAS, saying it no longer had confidence in the society's ability to address its operational issues and growing deficit. On the same day, the board of KHCAS announced they had tendered their resignations.

Rosaleen Cutler was appointed as supervisor to oversee and operate the society.

On Nov. 7, the KHCAS announced a new board of directors was in place.

The Highlander reached out to KHCAS last week as there was nothing publicly stated about the Haliburton office or its staffing.

Cutler, now executive director, confirmed that "after consultation with other agencies and internal discussions, the agency has determined that maintaining an office in Haliburton is a good plan. KHCAS will continue renting space in Haliburton. This decision has been shared within service agencies, and we apologize if broader community communication was not addressed earlier."

Culter added, "agency-wide, we did have a job loss, however, it did not affect our Haliburton office."

The agency said Len Lifchus is the new chair of the board for a two-year term. Joining Lifchus are: Arnold Taylor, Allison Sadowski, Blake Jeffries (treasurer), J. Murray Jones, and John Corso (vice-chair).

"Their collective expertise will help guide the agency as it continues to strengthen its child welfare services, financial sustainability efforts and partnerships within the community," KHCAS said.

Cutler has led the agency over the last 13 months in the development of a deficit management plan and implementing recommendations from the organization's operational review. She will continue to lead during the recruitment of a permanent executive director.

Cutler said, "Kawartha-Haliburton Children's Aid Society has experienced some significant changes over the last few years. I look forward to supporting the board in its establishment of priorities while providing strategic leadership and guidance within agency operations as we move forward."

Marg Cox, executive director of Point in Time Centre for Children, Youth and Parents, said they were "so pleased" the local office is going to remain open.

"CAS services are not intended to be punitive – and sometimes families reach out directly for help and that is so much harder to do without a local office," she said. "Having a local office means staff live locally and do not waste a lot of time on the road to get here, understand the community because they do live here, and are more likely to be able to build collaborative relationships with staff from other organizations, like ours.

Cox added, "this means we can team up to provide complementary and supportive services together more often. It also means that the community has a more local location than needing to travel to Lindsay or Peterborough."

The Point in Time ED said it is also an equity issue. "Haliburtonians deserve a local office, an access point, staff rooted in our community. Gas prices, vehicle prices, poor internet and connectivity, lack of devices, etc., are real barriers that are eased through local geographic access."

It's also about trust and relationships, she said. "Trust is earned, and relationships are often built on trust – much easier to build trust and have solid helping relationships when both staff and people utilizing services have less time travelling and more time and access to meet in person.

"It's not easy to overturn decisions – but so glad that this decision has been overturned allowing for a local presence of KHCAS."

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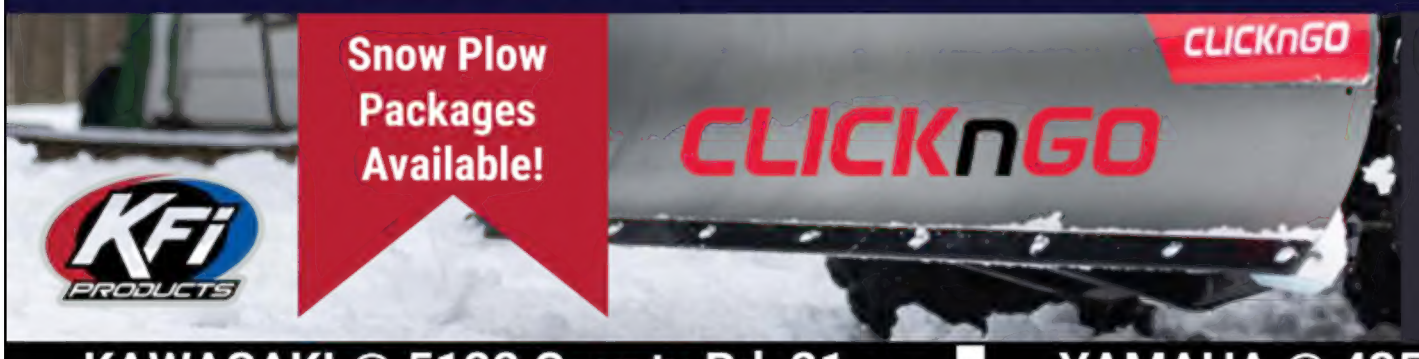

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Kyle and Leanne Young have grown Haliburton's Bridge Youth Centre to three programs and 65 attendees. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Hub providing bridge to hope for Haliburton County youth

By Mike Baker

It's a Thursday afternoon at the cozy lakeside hub that Youth Unlimited runs in Haliburton village – volunteers are milling around, preparing food for the expected rush of hungry high schoolers, one helper is putting board games onto tables, while Leanne Young, who founded the space last year with her husband, Kyle, waits eagerly to greet her teenaged guests.

The Bridge Youth Centre will celebrate its first anniversary in January – the facility, located at 2 Victoria St. overlooking Head Lake Park, has become a popular landing spot for youth in Grades 4-12 seeking company, or a warm place to hang out with friends once the school day is over.

Young said there are now three distinct programs – one more than when they launched 11 months ago. Mondays are for Grades 4 and 5, Wednesdays are for Grades 6-8 and Thursdays for Grades 9-12. Programs run from about 3:15 to 5:30 p.m.

The hub boasts a homey entryway, large common room, a video game room and kitchen, which is used to prepare full meals on Thursdays – it was tacos last week, while there's also been hot dogs and Italian food on the menu recently.

Young said she and Kyle started preparing meals for high schoolers months ago after learning that many of their visitors go hungry at some point during the day.

"I had a kid tell me last week that they feel guilty for eating the food in their house, because there's not very much of it and they'd rather their parents have it," Young said.

About 20 kids stopped by on the centre's first day in January, with 65-70 now enrolled regularly. There's more structure for the youngest cohort, with Grade 4-5 kids needing to be registered. They do outdoor sports, arts and crafts and baking every week. The older groups are less about programming and more focused on unwinding, Young said.

This summer, Young went into Head Lake Park wanting to engage with the dozens of youth hanging around. She connected with two boys, who were looking for something to do – so Young gave them fishing rods.

"They loved it – so much that they kept coming back every Thursday after that," Young said. "I asked them one day what they would be doing if they weren't here and they said, 'probably smoking dope, getting high and getting into trouble.' These kids aren't bad kids, they're just bored. Some of them come from broken families or difficult situations… and they just need that guiding hand."

Shannon Cole said her 10-year-old daughter has been enrolled in the Grade 4-5 program since September and loves it. Going to the Bridge has extended her daughter's social circle, Cole said, and added another adult role model to her life.

"Everyone needs that second mom – and Leanne is that to all the kids at Bridge," Cole said.

While programming is free to youth, there is a cost to everything the Youngs do. Rent is $2,000 a month. Fuel For Warmth covers all heating-related costs, while food is usually donated by Haliburton Foodland and Todd's Independent.

Young said the Bridge currently has two fundraising campaigns on the go – there's a Christmas concert and market Nov. 29 at Lakeside Church, from 2 to 4 p.m., with proceeds supporting operations, and a banner advertising program, with local businesses stepping up to help. Young said she's raised $14,500 through that and hopes to get to $24,000, to ensure rent is completely paid for through 2026.

They have a lease on the Haliburton space until January 2028, though Young said they have no plans to leave. In fact, she wants to continue expanding.

"We need more staff just to maintain what we're doing – building our team is the next priority," Young said. "Our dream would be to one day expand into Minden, even if it's just bringing a program to an existing facility one night per week."

For more information, or to donate, contact Young at leanne@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

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Editorial opinion

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To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Keep moving

By Mike Baker

I don't think I can emphasize enough just how important it is that we keep our bodies moving every day.

No, I'm not talking about the at-best 20-yard shuffle you might make, on occasion, dragging yourself from the couch to the fridge and back. I mean real, vigorous activity, the kind that makes you wake up the next morning rethinking your life choices and wondering if you'll ever feel normal again.

That was me last Friday. The night before, I joined *Highlander* editor Lisa Gervais at Highland Strength and Performance – Minden's newest fitness facility. Nestled in the basement of Heritage Plaza, the space is both daunting and inviting.

There are weights and workout stations in all corners of the gym – for newcomers, it can be a little intimidating. But owner, Alex Monteiro, immediately counteracts any nervous feelings or angst with the kind of guidance and enthusiasm needed to push through your first session. He's a fountain of fitness-related knowledge on-hand for every repetition, encouraging people to make the most out of their workout.

It had been well over a year since I had stepped foot inside a gym. As with a lot of things in my life, I hit pause on my getting healthy/weight loss mission about halfway through. I dropped from 372 pounds – the heaviest I'd ever been – to 290 pounds in about nine months. I cheated, though.

Yes, I went to the gym – five days a week at the start, then three, then two… you get the picture. I bought into intermittent fasting. It worked for a while. Then I just kind of stopped. I started making excuses for why I couldn't go to the gym. Before long 'because I don't feel like it' became an acceptable answer.

The results were there for Alex, Lisa and myself to see last week.

I breezed through the warm-up, fooling myself into thinking I was in moderately OK shape. The first set of squats were fine, even the inclined push ups using the bench press weren't complete hell. But the planking. It's probably fair to say I have never done a proper plank in my life.

After holding my admittedly horrible form in position for about 30 seconds, I collapsed onto the floor, gasping for air. Still, I had done it! I hadn't given in. Despite every fibre of my being wanted to duck out on the last few seconds, I dug in.

My smile quickly faded, however, when Alex said there were still two more sets to go.

It was an eye-opening experience for me, one that I needed to get my eating and workout habits back on track. Perfect time for a 'come to Jesus moment', right before the holidays, when everything smells and tastes better just because.

On Saturday, I made the walk of shame back to my old gym in Lindsay. It was the same guy behind the desk who closed my account months earlier – back then, I'd told him I was planning to transition my storage room into a home gym. All this time later, I still haven't moved an old box of mementos from my youth from off my treadmill.

We'll see how things go – but one thing I picked up from Monteiro is to not be too hard on myself. Sure, I may plan to hit the gym five days a week, but if I only make it out twice, that's still something. I'm guilty of this myself, but I find when people buy into health kicks and transformations, they're all or nothing. It doesn't have to be that way.

Whether it's taking your dog for an evening walk, digging out the snow shovel to clear your driveway when the white stuff inevitably arrives, or signing up for some classes – there are plenty of ways to get active and change the way you think and feel.

There are plenty of other great gyms and natural amenities – think trails - across Haliburton County. Get out and explore them.

JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Age and transitioning

By Peter Ferri

I'm wondering about a coming together of youth and seniors supporting each other with transitioning into autumn and winter; the seasonal shifts that make work projects for all of us.

Once again, I find myself looking around our property; at the amount of work facing me to prepare for winter; things that never appeared on my radar as challenging a few years ago. As a senior, loving living in Haliburton County, I find myself stopping and stepping back to think, "how are we going to get these things done?" Like fixing the heat line on the roof. I have learned over the years that I don't do roofs. After falling off three times over the years, I figure my time is up surviving the next fall.

Moving and stacking the cords of wood that have been delivered and piled, and bringing in the large plants that have been enjoying and growing outside for the past few months. Physically challenging chores that once were just what we did have now become daunting. I hate that. Recognizing that these seasonal transitions are becoming more of a challenge. Recognizing that I'm transitioning. My age is becoming a barrier to change.

Age and transitioning. Wondering and deciding whether I can do, or not do, becomes the challenge of the day. Well, it's not so bad, right? I just grab my phone and Google it. I'm fortunate enough to be able to direct a bit of money to buy a bit of help from someone in the community, yet as I search, I'm not finding any support. Certainly, clearing and moving wood may suit a young person in the community to make a few dollars, but I'm not having success. Now, professionals, like roofers, are expectedly busy and not really interested in small jobs, understandably.

I'm not sure what the answer is but I believe there is an opportunity to reach out into the community to support our youth with an interest in entrepreneurship. A coming together and partnership to combine volunteering and money-making experiences. Maybe a co-operative.

I know from experience that money is a barrier for a lot of seniors. In the past, I've hired youth to move wood and the going rate is $20 to $25 an hour. Tough work, yet that can add up quickly and become a barrier for some seniors to afford. Again, a price you pay to find someone interested. To find someone interested seems to be the operative phrase.

I know we are moving into an aging society and I believe this could be an opportunity for some to be involved and help build that intergenerational community, supporting all. There may be enough seniors willing to support a seniors' community ongoing work project. A project that brings youth and seniors together to support each other. Again, isn't this what we are hoping to create. A community that builds on a strong foundation of growing together. Just my thoughts as I continue to procrastinate through my transitions.

(Peter Ferri is a member of Aging Together as Community).

Correction:

In the Nov. 20 edition of *The Highlander*, in the page 11 story titled 'seniors group secures non-profit status', we incorrectly stated Aging Together As Community Haliburton Highlands had received charitable status – it has not. We apologize for this error.

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

What is happening with the Beaver Theatre?

Dear editor,

I have been coming to Gull Lake since I was 11 years old when my dad bought property on Gull Lake and now five generations have enjoyed the escape from the city to the cottage.

I fondly remember the shows at the Beaver Theatre, as do my sons, and then it was sold. The next owner, after years of problems, sold to a developer, who in 2020, said he was, "95 per cent ready to go" yet council said they needed more information.

I find it sad that a building can break down, be condemned, the red fence is a joke, yet the council avoids the situation and the pigeons continue to multiply.

The other buildings are well-maintained along Milne and Water streets, developing a second area of interesting shops and a Saturday farmers market.

The young couple that purchased Minden Auto have done a really impressive clean up. I hope people walking on the river side look at the building from that side as the painting is unique and fun. In my opinion, the old Beaver Theatre should be leveled; it is beyond repair and a health hazard.

I feel driven to support the new owners of the old Rockcliffe, the Ecclestone family. It was impressive to see how fast the Ecclestone family cleaned up the Rockcliffe and what a difference a fresh coat of paint and some gardens made. I see that they are also working on it again.

What is the Beaver Theatre's owners' intention? I find it hard to believe there is no rule or time limit that demands a condemned building be either repaired or torn down.

Marie Kennedy
Minden Hills

Bravo, Aging Together as Community

Dear editor,

Aging Together as Community (ATAC) held a (very) sold-out fundraising/information session/luncheon/celebration this past Sunday afternoon at the Haliburton Legion.

The ATAC committee didn't miss a thing; a lively room of enthusiastic supporters, a variety of delicious chilis and desserts donated by a number of very generous local restaurants and businesses, some terrific entertainment and a powerful and moving address by Dr. Nell Thomas. What a remarkable sense of how strong, vibrant and progressive our community is. The guests also included three councilors from the Township of Minden Hills. Their interest in, and support of, the event was very clearly noted and appreciated by those in attendance. Bravo ATAC.

Sean Pennylegion
Haliburton

THE HIGHLANDER COMMUNITY SURVEY

What do you want from your community newspaper?

Tell us and be entered in our draw to win $100, $50 or $25 gift card

1. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOURSELF? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Under 18	☐ Male	☐ Full-time resident	☐ Employed
☐ 19–29	☐ Female	☐ Part-time resident	☐ Unemployed
☐ 30-44	☐ Resident of Dysart et al	☐ Cottager	☐ Retired
☐ 45-64	☐ Resident of Minden Hills	☐ Local	☐ Student
☐ 65-80	☐ Resident of Algonquin Highlands	☐ Lifelong Resident	☐ Business owner
☐ 81+	☐ Resident of Highlands East	☐ Newcomer	☐ Volunteer
☐ High School grad	☐ I try to shop locally	☐ Professional	☐ I usually vote in elections
☐ College/Uni grad	☐ I use social media	☐ Tradesperson	☐ I wouldn't live anywhere else

2. WHERE DO YOU GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ The Highlander	☐ The Echo
☐ Minden Times	☐ Facebook
☐ Instagram	☐ Canoe FM
☐ Moose FM	☐ Friends/Family (Word of Mouth)
☐ I don't follow local news	☐ Other (please specify): _____

3. HOW DO YOU GET NEWS IN GENERAL? RANK YOUR 1ST, SECOND AND 3RD SOURCES OF NEWS BY PUTTING A 1, 2 OR 3 BELOW

☐ Print newspapers	☐ Online newspapers
☐ Social Media	☐ Television
☐ Online Video (e.g. Youtube)	☐ Radio
☐ Podcasts	☐ Print Magazines
☐ Online News Sites	☐ Other (please specify): _____

4. HOW OFTEN DO YOU READ THE HIGHLANDER IN EACH FORMAT?

	Weekly	1-3x per Month	Sometimes	Never
Print Newspaper	☐	☐	☐	☐
Website	☐	☐	☐	☐
Downloaded PDF	☐	☐	☐	☐

If you don't read The Highlander regularly, please tell us why: _____

5. HOW MUCH DO YOU TRUST NEWS FROM:
(LEAVE BLANK FOR SOURCES NOT USED)

	Don't Trust									Trust Completely
The Highlander	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Facebook	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Instagram	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
TikTok	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Television	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Google/MSN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Other	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

(Please specify): _____

6. WHICH LOCAL TOPICS ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU? (TICK AS MANY BOXES AS APPLY)

☐ Municipal Government/Politics	☐ Local Businesses
☐ Arts	☐ Environment
☐ Local Events	☐ Sports (Adults)
☐ Real Estate	☐ School Sports
☐ Trades	☐ Bids & Tenders
☐ Health & Mental Health	☐ Seniors
☐ Cottaging	☐ Restaurants/Eating Out
☐ Local History & Heritage	☐ Opinions
☐ Letters to the Editor	☐ Hunting & Fishing
☐ Local School News	☐ Job Postings
☐ Product Reviews	☐ Puzzles
☐ Weekly Calendar	☐ Non-Profit Activities
☐ Finance & Economics	☐ Investigations
☐ Life Events e.g. Weddings/Obits	☐ Profiles of Local People
☐ Other (please specify): _____	

Complete the survey online instead, here.
www.thehighlander.ca/survey

Are there topics you wish we covered more, less or differently?

7. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ABOUT ADVERTISING IN THE HIGHLANDER ARE TRUE? (TICK AS MANY AS APPLY)

- ☐ I read at least some of the advertisements.
- ☐ I am more likely to shop at a store that advertises in The Highlander
- ☐ The Highlander's ads are attractive
- ☐ I look in The Highlander for deals and specials at local stores
- ☐ I have responded to at least one ad in The Highlander this year
- ☐ I look at The Highlander when I need a local service or product
- ☐ I've found products/services I didn't know existed in The Highlander
- ☐ I trust ads in The Highlander more than social media and web ads

8. PICK JUST ONE THING

What would be ONE thing in The Highlander that would make you want to read it every week?

_____

9. DREAM BIG

If you could wave a magic wand and transform The Highlander into exactly what you want it to be, what would that look like? What would make you excited to read it every week and make The Highlander your #1 choice for local news and information?

(If you need more space, feel free to send an email to editor@thehighlander.ca with your thoughts and ideas.)

PRIZE DRAW (OPTIONAL)

Enter your email for a chance to win: _____

Please drop this off at The Highlander office at 123 Maple Ave (beside the Post Office)

THANK YOU!

Highlander arts

COME ROCK WITH US!

LEARN TO CURL WITH THE WILBERFORCE CURLING CLUB!

Ready to try one of Canada's most beloved winter sports? Grab your friends and join us on the ice at no cost!

Whether you're a complete beginner or just want a refresher, this is the perfect chance to learn the basics in a fun and welcoming environment.

Love curling but hate the strain of the traditional hack delivery? You can come out and try stick curling too! This adapted version uses a delivery stick, making the sport accessible and enjoyable for everyone, especially those with mobility issues or injuries. Perfect for curlers with knee, hip, back, or shoulder problems.

Here are the details of our Learn to Curl sessions:

Where: Wilberforce Curling Club, 2249 Loop Road, Wilberforce. K0L3C0
Session 1: Sunday, December 7th from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Session 2: Thursday, December 11th from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM (Registration Day)
What to Bring: Clean shoes-essential for the ice!
Dress Code: Wear comfortable layers-you'll warm up quickly!

Equipment: All other necessary curling equipment is provided including brooms and sticks for those who would like to try stick curling.

As a bonus, **we're giving away a FREE half season membership (value $125)** to one lucky new curler who attends our Learn to Curl sessions on December 7th or December 11th, 2025! It's the perfect way to get into the sport–learn the basics, meet great people, and potentially curl for the rest of the season on us!

Got questions? Email wilberforcecurling@gmail.com or for more information, visit: www.wilberforcecurling.com

Hank DeBruin and his daughter, Michaela McCready-DeBruin, with some of the dogs on set. *Submitted.*

Hollywood Haliburton

By Lisa Gervais

There's a little bit of Haliburton County in the recently-released *A Very Jonas Christmas Movie*.

Fresh off their appearance in *Frankenstein*, the canines of Winterdance Dogsled Tours make an appearance in the Disney+ flick.

Tanya McCready said the connection to the latest movie came out of *Frankenstein* – with many familiar faces on set.

They filmed for the Christmas movie in January 2025.

Asked about the difference between the two, she said, "as opposite as it could be. In *Frankenstein*, they're trying to create this outdoor world and they want the epic landscapes of a frozen lake in North Bay and sunsets and all this stuff.

"And this set, it was like we were recreating winter, which, of course, last winter we had an epic winter. There was snow everywhere, but yet they created their winter indoors so it was very controlled."

She said the first thing they wanted was to ensure the dogs could pull a sled on fake snow. They went the first day to a Toronto studio and Michaela McCready-DeBruin did a test run with no problems. There was a practice day as a stunt double, then a filming day at Heritage Studios.

"They were awesome. We literally drove the truck right in through the stage door and parked right outside the big room they turned into a winter wonderland. The dogs just stayed on their carpets and met everybody going in and out of the stage." She said people took selfies with the dogs. "It was a great day for everyone."

When it comes to choosing the dogs, she said they select the best leaders. Piper and Stirling were lead dogs in both movies. Also, they knew the dogs from *Frankenstein* would be comfortable on the Jonas Brothers set. The others on this one were Sydney and Tolkay. McCready said the caterers offered the dogs anything they wanted to eat, including bacon and steak.

As to future projects, McCready added, "you just never know what's coming."

SIR SAM'S INN & SPA

DECEMBER EVENTS

LIVE MUSIC ALL MONTH LONG:
Dec 6 - Gord Kidd
Dec 27 - Gord Kidd
Dec 31 (NYE!) - Cam Galloway

NEW Dining Packages - Let us do the cooking this week!
Call for reservations (705) 754 2188

Dip n Dine Package Sunday through Thursday, add our relaxing WaterSpa experience for two for just $15 more when you make a dinner reservation!

Prime Rib Monday & Fish Fryday! Last ones until the week of Jan 5th! Come join us!

Holiday Party Time is Here! Planning a festive luncheon/dinner or full evening of celebration? The Inn has lunch and dinner reservation options as well as full evening events up to 55 people.

New Year's Eve Celebration on Eagle Lake! Have a fantastic time sending off 2025 and ring in the New Year with us! We will be offering a delicious 3 course dining menu including prime rib and other options, live music featuring Cam Galloway in Gunner's Pub, fireworks over Eagle Lake and at midnight a Champagne Toast with charcuterie board- all included with dinner or rooms reservations!

Scott Creighton has spent 10 years fixing up the old Barr General Store at 1023 Gooderham Street. *Photos by Mike Baker.*

Gooderham rebuild a labour of love

By Mike Baker

Scott Creighton dusts off the back of an aged panel from the original 'Gooderham Garage and Livery' sign that now hangs from the second-floor balcony of the old Barr General Store in the hamlet's downtown on a sleepy fall Friday morning, pointing out a key error in its design.

"Whoever made it actually misspelt Gooderham," Creighton said, with the sign not containing an H. "But they caught the mistake before putting it up, so it looks like they turned it around and redid it."

The hub at 1023 Gooderham St. has been given a new lease on life by Creighton, his wife Susan Browne, and business partner Chris Burker, who have spent a decade refurbishing the building with 129 years of history.

Peter Barr established a general store in the community around 1873, moving into this space in 1896. As more people settled in the area, drawn by work on the rail line and at nearby sawmills, the store expanded its services. Creighton said it once had a gas station and doubled as both a furniture store and funeral parlour.

"It kind of did a little bit of everything. It's one of the original buildings in town," said a recently-retired Creighton, who sold off his mechanical contracting business in Toronto last year to move to Gooderham full-time. He and Browne have been cottaging on Contau Lake for 20 years. Before that, Creighton owned land on Pine Lake.

He's been a regular at the Corduroy Enduro races, held every fall, for years. Knowing this is the place he wanted to retire to, Creighton said he took a leap of faith in 2015 when taking the building on. Since then, the partners have invested about $300,000 and spent thousands of hours fixing it up.

The original stone foundation was cleaned up, with new steel supports installed to strengthen it; the interior was completely gutted, with new plumbing, electrical features, walls and furnishings. The main level now houses a commercial space Creighton is hoping to lease out and one potential residential unit, with two more apartments upstairs.

He said the project had been a real labour of love.

"The easiest thing for us to do would have been to knock it down, but then we would have lost all of the heritage and history," Creighton said. "We kept the look of the old store as best we could. I found lots of old photos. We wanted to restore it so that it can become a central point of this community again.

"I just felt like the town needed a spark. This was an eyesore for a lot of years. We wanted to do our part to beautify the town… hopefully this is the first step, maybe others will catch on, and we can modify the town and get it back to where it was. This was a booming place back in the day," he added.

Asked what type of commercial tenant he hopes to attract, Creighton said a coffee store or café would be a great fit for Gooderham's downtown.

"That was the original plan when we bought the place 10 years ago – I'd fix it, and Susan and I would run a coffee shop with a biker theme. Being right at the interaction of CR 503 and CR 507, there's opportunity here," Creighton said. "I just want to see something come in that adds to the community… there are so many things this town needs."

Creighton said he, Browne and Burker intend to be largely hands-off now after putting in 10 years of work.

"It feels good to do something for this community, but this place has been a bit of a money pit for 10 years. It's finished now, there's a bit of a legacy there, but it'll be real nice to get some new tenants in and see this become everything we hope it can be," he said.

Highlander environment

A seedy story with a happy ending

By Lisa Gervais

Two Haliburton businesses have partnered to help restore prairie grasses in the Oak Ridges Moraine - that may one day help the endangered Kirtland's Warbler – and other species to survive and thrive.

Baz Conlin of Haliburton Micromeadows has been contracted by the Northumberland Land Trust, part of the larger Oak Ridges Moraine Land Trust. He said the two Land Trusts are working with partners to restore 80 hectares for the bird, and other species, including those threatened (Barn Swallow, Bank Swallow, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Grasshopper Sparrow, Eastern Hog-nosed Snake) and those of special concern (Golden-winged Warbler, Snapping Turtle, Midland Painted Turtle, and Monarch Butterfly).

Kirtland's Warblers have very specific habitat requirements, typically nesting in well-drained sandy soils covered in large forests of young Jack Pine, a habitat often created by fire. They lay their nests on the ground, hidden away under low lying branches of young Jack Pines with a thick cover of understory plants, such as grasses, sweet-fern and blueberry.

That's where Conlin comes in – helping to bring the grasses that are needed.

"Basically, they are trying to restore a shortgrass prairie full of native grass species, and then they're creating a young Jack Pine forest in this area to try to create habitat for these birds, so it's like a bottom-up restoration project," Conlin said.

Baz Conlin from Haliburton Micromeadows collecting seed from Lucas House, at the offices of *The Highlander*, Lebo Law and Corner Gallery. *Submitted.*

He added they are looking for different species of grasses that would have originated in Pine-Oak savannah or tall prairie grass ecosystems. However, because of development, and fire suppression, there's less than one per cent of the original coverage in Ontario.

"So, finding large enough populations of these species in order to collect enough seed to sow 80 hectares is a lot. You need about three to five pounds per acre of seed and the seed weighs nothing." He added it's very hard to collect in the wild and takes an inordinate amount of time.

One of the grasses is Little Bluestem, which Simon Payn of Grounded has planted at his Lucas House garden, which houses Grounded, *The Highlander*, Lebo Law, and Corner Gallery.

"The grass that Simon's growing, Little Bluestem, is a major component of these ecosystems and his seeds come from a very small remnant population in the Pontypool area of Kawartha Lakes," Conlin said. He believes they are from a Hydro corridor there.

Conlin visited the Lucas House garden and was able to collect about 10 gallons of seed, which ended up being three to five pounds, enough to restore a large area in the Moraine.

He said there are seed purveyors in Ontario, but the seeds are often cultivated from the northern U.S. and don't produce what he is looking for.

"By collecting the seeds that Simon's grown, we are preserving local genetics, and we are getting those local genetics back onto the land to essentially restore those tree (such as Jack Pine) populations."

He added that Abbey Gardens have also offered Little Bluestem grass from their sand pit restoration as a seed source in the future.

For now, though, he said, "we have this small little planting from *The Highlander* that comes from seeds from a very rare isolated population and the genes of that plant are being preserved by collecting those seeds at *The Highlander* and then sowing them on this large property, and it's a partnership between all these groups." Another contributor is Fleming College, Peterborough, which sowed the seeds at the site.

Payn said, "I love that the garden at Lucas House is breathing new life into a prairie. It shows how we here in the Highlands can work together and help the natural world."

SANTA CLAUS PARADE
THANK YOU TO ALL THESE GREAT FOLKS

Our friends in Dysart et al:
Andrea Mueller, Rob Camelon, Dave Coulter, Hailey Cole, Abby Roberts, Fire Dept. Volunteers, O.P.P. and E.M.S.

Starters:
Bill Frost, Bob Amos, Ken Savoy, Bob Hill, Bill Hodges

Traffic and Parking Controllers:
Matt Oulette, Irv Handler, Brian Monaghan. Bob Park, Tim Nicholls, our friends at Haliburton United Church, Sunbelt Rentals, Ben, Kevin, Scott

Many Thanks to all those who entered with their lights, music and WONDERFULLY DECORATED FLOATS, ENTHUSIASTIC DANCERS AND WALKERS AND OUR EQUINE FRIENDS

Those of the Santa Float:
Bill Frost with Emmerson Helpers Bob Amos, Ken Savoy, Bob Hill, Bill Hodges, Lions David and Betty Mills, James Lawr, Ray Howlett, Marilyn Frost, Paul Sheardown, Renee Griffith

REMEMBERING:
Ken Noble, Jim Meadows and Sam Charlton

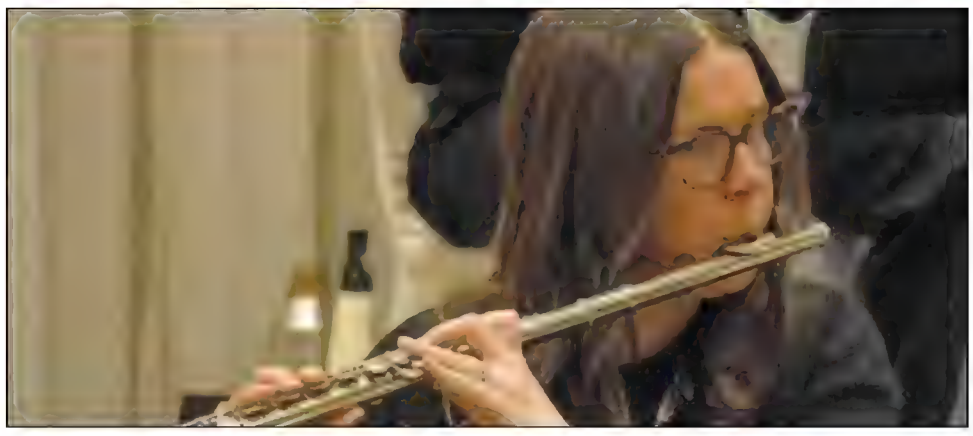
Thanks to Andy Salvatori and Family for donating the tree and to Dysart Fire volunteers and Emmerson Lumber for felling and erecting the tree. Anthony and Juliane VanLieshout for the location and hydro for the tree Gord Kidd and Kathryn Frost for the Carol Sing, CanoeFM & MooseFM, Echo & Highlander for all your help!
Thanks to those donors for helping with the parade cost, and anyone I may have missed!

From Jim Frost Parade Coordinator and Downtown Haliburton BIA and Haliburton and District Lions Club

Highlander events

A night at the orchestra

The Highlands Chamber Orchestra presented its 'Chronicles of Courage' concert at Pinestone Resort Nov. 22. This year's annual fall concert highlighted songs from stories of great adventure and courage, said conductor Dan Manley, featuring music by Berlioz, Rachmaninov, Richard and Robert Sherman and more. Local pianist Melissa Stephens also performed a solo during the show, which was attended by approximately 220 people. *(Mike Baker)*



Top left: Sue Robinson and Glen Carter bring the power on the French horn. Top right: Greg Shantz and Marie Watson on violin. Middle right: Melissa Stephens, Judith Iannucci and Madeline Lawrence playing a tune. Bottom right: Natalia Brown plays the flute. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

Highlander events

Those Other Movies

Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion

THE BALTIMORONS

Thursday December 11
4:15 & 7:15

STARRING MICHAEL STRASSNER & LIZ LARSEN

On Christmas Eve, a newly sober man's dental emergency leads to an unexpected connection with an older no-nonsense dentist. The story takes place over 24 hours with some unexpected twists. Strong characters will pull you into an evening of adventure that is driven by hope, kindness and optimism.

ADMIT ONE
$10 CASH ONLY

www.ThoseOtherMovies.com

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Featuring an extensive range of premium custom urns, wreaths, deluxe mixed garlands and Christmas trees.

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Spirited spectacle

Laughter could be heard from outside the walls of the Lloyd Watson Centre this past weekend as the Loop Troupe brought its latest production, the festive-themed *Turkey, Tinsel and Turmoil*, to stage in Wilberforce. The comedy, penned by County resident Mary Barker, focuses on married couple Carol and Stan who are flung into action on Christmas Day by hosting a family dinner usually prepared by Carol's mother – who's delayed flight threw a ratchet into the original plans. There were two shows – Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon – with each one attracting about 100 people and delivering a hearty sense of Christmas spirit. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: Left to right: Stan, played by Philip Lawr, Lisa, played by Nancy Duff, Carol, played by Jodi Rupnow and Aunt Millie, played by Linda Ladd. Bottom left: Nick, played by Gary Mount, dons his favourite apron while baking. Bottom right: It all got a little too much for Carol. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

Indigo dragonfly

Holiday 2025 Hours:
Mon-Fri 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturdays 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
from Nov. 22 to Dec 20

1946 Kennisis Lake Rd, Haliburton, ON
orders@indigodragonfly.ca

Hand-Dyed Yarn & Fibre for the artisan in your life

Municipality of Dysart et al

Notice of Special Meeting

2026 Budget Projects and Priorities

Take notice that there will be a **Special Meeting** of Council on **Friday, December 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss projects and priorities for the 2026 Mayoral Budget. The Municipality has also set the following dates (if required) to review the Budget:

January 9, 2026 and February 13, 2026

These meetings will be livestreamed. You can view the proceedings by visiting the Dysart YouTube page:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVWZxsvf8VCyDf04uwjCJ6g

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

READ THE HIGHLANDER. ANYWHERE.

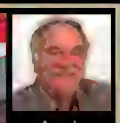
CENTURY 21 GRANITE REALTY GROUP INC*

REMARKABLE REALTORS

Jim Allder* (705) 935-1112

Haliburton Home $379,000
- Fully renovated 3-bed, 1-bath home
- Low-maintenance yard with covered deck
- Steps from shops, beach, & Haliburton fun

FOR LEASE



Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

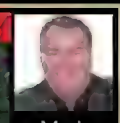
Space for Lease
- Lower level of Heritage Mall
- Various size units - $10/sq ft
- Ideal office or health services

NEW PRICE

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

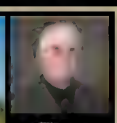
West Guilford Gem $625,000
- Renovated 3-bed home, Open-concept
- Detch'd heated garage + fenced kennel
- Walk to beach, trails & local shops

SOLD



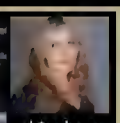
Mark Dennys* (705) 457-0473

Haliburton Acreage
- 780 Acres, 2 Vacant Lots with Hardwood
- Trails, Hunting etc., Easy Access
- Close to many amenities/services



Tom Ecclestone* (705) 754-5101

Gull Lake $674,950
- Cozy 2-Bed Cabin, Endless Potential
- Level 2-Acre Lot, Western Exposure
- Over 180' Sandy Shore, Perfect View



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

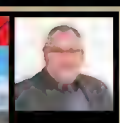
Your Dream Home Awaits!
- Now is the perfect time to get your home or cottage on the market!
- Call me for a market evaluation!

SOLD

Melanie Maxwell-Hevesi**& Andrea Wilson** (705) 854-1000

Gooderham Lake
- 3 Beds, 2 Baths, Laundry, Yr Round Road
- Bright, Open-Concept Main Floor
- Minutes To Trails & Crown Land

NEW LISTING

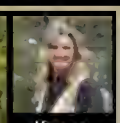


Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Pine Lake Home $499,000
- 3 Bed, 1 Bath, Open-concept home
- Lake views, Newer dock, Kid-friendly
- Lower level walkout, Room to expand

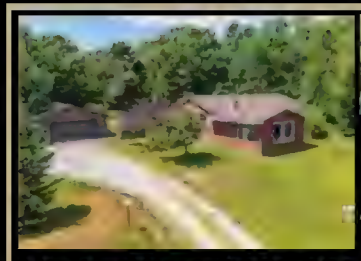
Susanne James* & Andy Mosher** (705) 457-2128 ext. 133

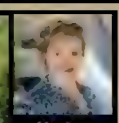
CONTAU LAKE LOT - $399,900
- Not Many Good Lakefront Lots Left!
- 120' Shoreline, South Exp, Good Privacy
- Hydro At Lot Line, Driveway, Dock & Deck



Karyn Linton Marra* (705) 306-7515

Log Home on 24 Acres $750,000
- Two, 2-Bedroom Artists Homes
- In-law or short term rental, expansive deck
- Pond, Stream, Trails, Pool & Firepit

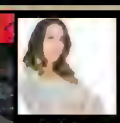




Kathy Martin* (705) 457-7592

Minden Home $695,000
- 3 Beds/2 Bath, 2,100+SqFt, 3.49 Acres
- Massive Garage/Workshop, Open Cpt
- Private Backyard Pond, 3 Mins to Minden

NEW LISTING



Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Windover Drive $199,990
- Build your dream home here now
- Quiet, friendly neighbourhood lot
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Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

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Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Haliburton By The Lake $550,000
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Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841
Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

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- Spacious Rec Rm, Chef-Inspired Kitchen
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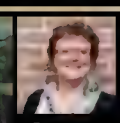


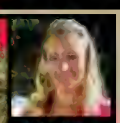
Darlene Reil* (705) 854-2055

Irondale River $324,900
- Well kept 3 bedroom home with garage
- Workshop, "she" shed, walk to amenities
- Storage sheds along the Irondale River

Christine Sharp* (416) 566-1592

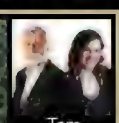
Storybook Log Cabin $549,000
- Charming winterized log cabin home
- 8+ acres of private woods, cozy porch
- Close to Tory Hill & trails

NEW LISTING



Melanie Vigrass* (705) 754-5494

Clear Lake Road $575,000
- 3 beds, 2 baths + trails & lake access
- Open concept w/ big kitchen + island
- Screened porch, deck & garage/workshop



Tom Wilkinson** (705) 457-6839
Lindsay Wilkinson* (705) 854-1454

Gull River $924,900
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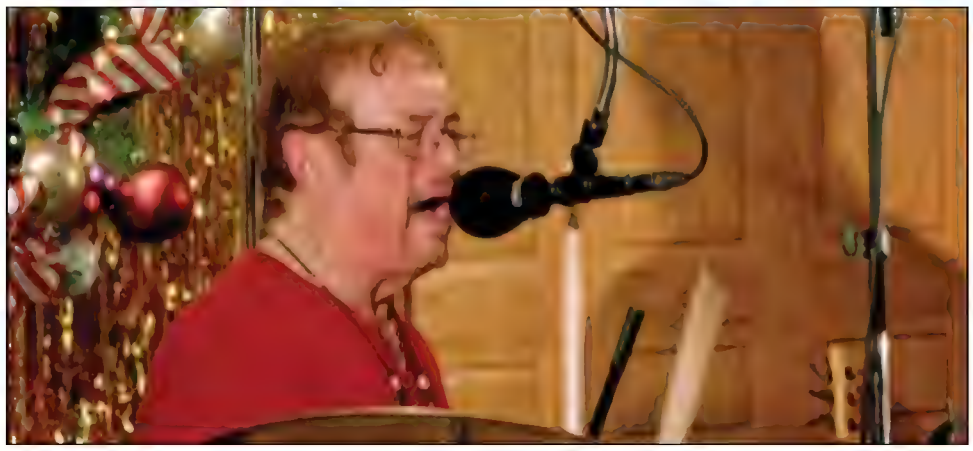
Highlander events



Warming homes and hearts

It was a rockin' good night at the Haliburton Legion Nov. 22 as the community packed the place for the 12th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig. The annual event raises money for Fuel for Warmth, this year bringing in $46,550. About 100 people attended Saturday's celebration, with live music provided by the Jeff Moulton Band. Lead organizer Drew Allen said it was an "outstanding" night, with proceeds to help hundreds stay warm through the winter. *(Mike Baker)*

Top: About 100 people attended this year's Shindig at the Haliburton Legion. Bottom left: The always-popular Marple Syrup, portrayed by Victoria Bingham, and Patsy Pine, played by Amy Brohm, hosted Saturday's Highlands Christmas Shindig. Bottom right: Festive tunes were belted out by Jeff Moulton, pictured, and his band. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 911 • AFTER-HOURS MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY DIAL 1-866-856-3247 • WWW.MINDENHILLS.CA

NOTICE OF DELAYED OPENING HOURS

The following facilities will have delayed opening hours on Wednesday, December 3, 2025:

- Township of Minden Hills Municipal Office (7 Milne St.);
- SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena – Administration Office (55 Parkside St.); and
- Minden Hills Fire - Administration Office (12418 Hwy. 35).

All the noted facilities will open later than normal to provide an opportunity for Municipal Staff to participate in a Holiday Staff Appreciation Breakfast. Business will resume as normal at 9:45 a.m. on this date. We appreciate your patience and understanding regarding this matter.

*Please note our Emergency Services will respond as needed, the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena (public will have access to facilities at the Arena) and the Municipal Waste Facilities will operate per normal hours (Scotch Line and Iron mine are closed on Wednesdays, Little Gull and Ingoldsby Transfer Stations are both open at 10 AM).

For questions or additional information please contact:
Cynthia Fletcher, Chief Administrative Officer
P: 705-286-1260; Email: admin@mindenhills.ca

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- November 27 – Regular Council Meeting
- December 11 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

SAFE WINTER DRIVING

When a winter storm is expected, all municipalities have a plan. Drivers need to have their own plan. It is important to delay unnecessary travel during significant storms to give plows time to do their jobs. It's also safer for drivers.

NOTICE OF 2026 BUDGET MEETINGS

Take Notice that there will be a Special meeting of Council and Public Meeting held on December 15, 2025 at 9:00 AM. The purpose of the meetings is to review and discuss the 2026 Mayoral Budget. **Members of the public may access the agenda and Budget materials on December 10, 2025. Members of the public are invited to participate in person or electronically** and make comment/speak at the Public Meeting relating to the 2026 budget. **Members of the public wishing to participate electronically** must pre-register by emailing admin@mindenhills.ca by Friday, December 12th, before 4:00 pm. Please visit our website for further details.

STRATEGIC PLAN – HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MINDEN HILLS

The Township of Minden Hills is working with Karen Jones Consulting Inc. to develop a Strategic Plan. We will be hosting sessions to gather information regarding priorities, opportunities for growth, collaboration, and more.

- Community Session – Thursday, November 27, 2025 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1
- Business Session – Friday, November 28, 2025 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena Community Room 1

The sessions are open to everyone. Kindly register to assist with session logistics. For information visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom or email admin@mindenhills.ca.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- A selection of artwork from the Agnes Jamieson Gallery's permanent collection, as well as new acquisitions, is now on display. The Gallery is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. All are welcome. Admission is by donation.
- Join the UFO's (UnFinished Objects Craft Group) in the Welch Room on Friday, November 28 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. All are welcome!

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

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Highlander events

Christmas kick-off

The Haliburton community came out in full force, lining Highland Street in the downtown Friday evening (Nov. 21) for the annual Santa Claus Parade. It was a brisk evening as folks enjoyed one of the largest parades ever. Before the big guy took to the streets in his sleigh, residents were invited to sing carols and help decorate the town Christmas tree in front of the Village Barn. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: The Correctional Service Canada Community Pipes and Drums brought the noise to the parade. Top right: The Castle Building Centre float was a classic barnburner featuring young hockey players. Middle right: The G.J. Burtch float was decked out with candy canes, gingerbread men, and smiling children. Bottom right: Happy holidays from Haliburton Chrysler. *Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

Highlander events

Jogging into the holidays

Christmas spirit was in the air at Glebe Park Nov. 23 as approximately 30 people dressed up in their favourite festive garb for the 12th annual Jolly Jog event. Organized by Dysart et al township, the holiday-themed fundraising walk saw people complete a loop of the park in Haliburton, supporting Snowflake Meadows Dog Rescue. *(Mike Baker)*

Above: Participants line up in front of the Haliburton Highlands Museum for a group photo before the Jolly Jog. Bottom left: Anna Lee Winter and Britta Ritchie share a smile. Bottom right: Joe won a prize for best costume, wishing everyone a happy ho-ho-holiday season.*Photos by Steven Sherwood.*

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hello December

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The Haliburton County Huskies took some time to help decorate smile cookies at Tim Hortons. *Photos submitted.*

GO HUSKIES GO!

Refreshed Huskies squad 'improving every game'

By Mike Baker

Things are looking up for the new-look Haliburton County Huskies, who have won two out of three games over the past week to move up to fifth in the Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Conference.

The Huskies pulled off road wins over the Niagara Falls Canucks Nov. 21 and St. Michael's Buzzers Nov. 23, before dropping a close game to the King Rebellion Nov. 25. Those results saw the team leapfrog the Buzzers in the standings, with the Huskies three points back of the Pickering Panthers in fourth. The team has racked up 29 points in 27 games, with a record of 12 wins, 10 losses, four overtime defeats, and one tie.

After a shaky start to the season, the Huskies have won five games in November, tied one, and lost three – to Buffalo, Georgetown and King – by a single goal. Head coach Jordan Bailey said it's been a major turnaround, inspired by several new additions.

"I think we're playing better hockey. We have that buy-in and belief, which can be a really good combo," Bailey said. "I like the way we're playing. Even against King, I thought we controlled most of the game, they just took advantage on our breakdowns. Against teams of that calibre, it's those little mistakes that punish you," Bailey said.

After a four-game roadstand, the Huskies bench boss is excited to get back to S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena this weekend, with the hometown team hosting the Cobourg Cougars on Saturday, with a 4 p.m. puck drop, and Newmarket Hurricanes Sunday, with a 2 p.m. puck drop.

"It feels like it's been forever since we've been at home, a couple weeks, so it'll be nice to have that eagerness of the fans in the rink cheering the guys on," Bailey said.

Impressive wins

The Huskies were dominant from the first whistle to the last against Niagara Falls last Friday, coming away with a 6-1 win. A hat-trick from fourth-liner Lewis Hergaarden inspired the Huskies to victory, with new arrival Liam Oravsky adding to his monstrous points total – a powerplay goal and two assists taking him to 14 points in eight games since joining the blue and white.

Kieran Raynor and Chase Del Colombo also found the scoresheet, with Nic Ferrante, Jack Cook and Daniel Vasic each recording two assists. Other helpers went to Mike Mardula and Josh Hutton.

Bailey said it was nice to see players in his bottom six stepping up, with several of the Huskies top stars missing through illness.

"We've had the flu bug going through the room, there's been six to eight guys really struggling for the past week or so," Bailey said. "We're getting that secondary scoring, though. Anytime you can roll out four lines and get production from all four, you become a very hard team to play against."

The Huskies left it late to overcome St. Mike's on Sunday, with Del Colombo potting the overtime game-winner in a 4-3 win.

Ryan Gosse scored his eighth of the season to level the game late in the first, following an early St. Mike's opener, with Raynor giving the Huskies the lead six minutes into the second. A Max Mahoney pair, the second a penalty shot scored shorthanded, gave St. Mike's a lead to hold onto, but Isaac Larmand leveled on the powerplay late in the period. There was no scoring in the third.

King 3-2 Huskies

Tuesday's tilt was a tight game between two emerging powers – King sits in fifth in the West Conference after winning four of its last five games.

The Huskies took the lead midway through the first, Carson Durnin scoring his second goal in blue and white from Oravsky. King responded with two goals before the end of the first, scoring twice on 12 shots against Huskies netminder Owen Edwards.

Gosse tied the game at 19:01 of the second frame, assisted by Raynor and Easton Poe, but Lachlan Larman struck the game-winner at 10:51 of the final frame, teed up by former Husky Antonio Cerqua.

"I thought we played good enough to win, but things just didn't go our way," Bailey said.

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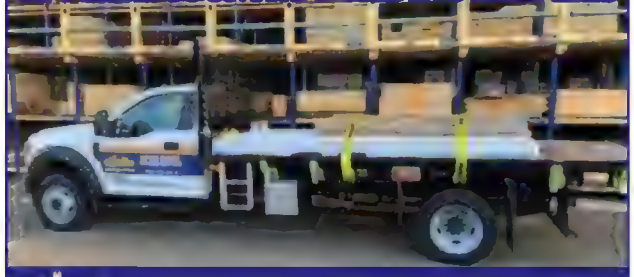

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Home of the Highland Storm

Left: Captain Lucas Sinclair rips a shot on net. Right: Jackson Sperrino carries the puck. *Photos by Steven Sherwood*

U15s first in tournament

Last weekend, the Highland Storm U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House team played in the regional Silverstick tournament at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena in Minden. They faced a grueling schedule and tough opponents.

First opposition was the Ennismore Eagles White team. Both teams traded chances during the first two periods but both goalies stood tall and turned aside every shot. It wasn't until the eight-minute mark of the third that Jackson Sperrino broke the deadlock with a well-placed snapshot just under the crossbar. The Storm added to their lead just two minutes later when Captain Lucas Sinclair battled through a couple of checks and put a low wrister into the net. With the Storm ahead 2-0, Marshall Heasman continued his sharp play in net and kept the Eagles off the board.

The second game was against the Stirling Blues. The Storm put the Blues on their heels early. Jozef Porzuczek led the charge scoring two minutes into the game. Greyson Miscio and Sperrino also scored during the first. In the second, Linus Gervais took a pass from Sinclair in the slot and fired a wrist shot into the top of the net. The defence group of Jacob Manning, Camren Bawks, Greyson Thomas, Chris Fillier and Sinclair would not yield a goal, recording the team's second shutout of the tournament.

The last game of the day was against the Centre Hastings Grizzlies. It was a nail-biter as each team wanted to secure first place in the pool. The Grizzlies scored first. Facing their first deficit of the tournament, the Storm worked hard and tied the game when Sinclair banged in a rebound to tie the game. The Grizzlies took the lead again late in the second. Being down going into the third has never been an issue for this squad and they once again responded when Sperrino was able to out wait the goalie and flip the puck into the net. The Grizzlies scored on the powerplay with only three minutes to go in the game. With the goalie pulled and constant puck pressure, Sinclair was able to get a shot from the point on target that found the five-hole evening the score at three with only 14 seconds remaining. This was a complete team effort as Claire Hamilton, Addison Haaijema, and Brayden Collins all made major contributions to the team, being able to lock up first place in their tournament pool. (*Submitted*)

SCORE BOARD

Nov. 17 U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Mariposa 3-2 W
Nov. 18 U11 Minden Carquest vs Mariposa 10-0 W
U15 The Pepper Mill Steak & Pasta House vs Sturgeon 4-2 W
Nov. 20 U13 Casey's Water Well and Geothermal vs Brock 3-2 W
U9 MD Haliburton Hockey Haven vs Kawartha 8-0 L
U15 Minden Pharmasave vs Sturgeon 5-2 W
Nov. 22 U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Ennismore 2-0 W
U13 REP Curry Chevrolet vs Durham 6-3 W
U11 Carquest Minden vs Brock 3-2 W
U18 REP Haliburton Timbermart vs Upper York 7-2 W
Nov. 23 U11 REP Tom Prentice & Sons vs Durham 6-1 W
U15 REP Cheryl Smith RE/MAX vs Douro 1-0 L
U18 REP Haliburton Timbermart vs Ennismore 5-5 T
U18 A&W Haliburton vs Lindsay 6-4 L

STARS of the WEEK

CLAIRE HAMILTON

Claire has worked very hard this season. Battling for pucks and a constant forecheck.

JOZEF PORZUCZEK

Jozef has made a big impact with the team through his quick skating and constant work ethic.

JACOB MANNING

Jacob had many great defensive plays during the tournament.

Photos Submitted.

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed. Bridge at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Fun darts at 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid euchre 1 p.m. start, Remembrance Hall. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with a 7 p.m. start time, Remembrance Hall. Snack bar available from 5:30 p.m. – French fries and hot dogs available while supplies last.
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month.
Fridays: meat draw, five draws, five prizes each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts 4:30 p.m. onwards. 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom. Beginning July 4, board games for seniors from 10 a.m. to noon.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday 3-9 p.m., Tues 5-9 p.m., Wed/Thurs 3-6 p.m., Fri 3-7 p.m., **Saturday and Sunday closed.**
Upcoming events: Drum circle Dec. 7, Jan. 4, with a 1 p.m. start time; Dec. 7, turkey dinner with all the fixings. Doors open at 3:30 p.m., meal at 5 p.m., with entertainment provided by Mixed Bag. Tickets are $15 at the bar.

Royal Canadian Legion - Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Thursday** with regular menu and daily special including Liver Lovers' Tuesday.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings. Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: call for dates
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1-3 p.m., Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Nov. 27 cornhole at 7 p.m. Nov. 27 HHHS Social Rec 10 a.m.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Nov. 28 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17, at noon; Fish and chips, one piece $15, two piece $20 .
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Nov. 29 is open mic from 2 to 6 p.m. Nov. 29 is trivia night at 7 p.m. $5/player.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Royal Canadian Legion - Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is hosting its online holiday auction until Dec. 10. There are over 100 items to bid on, from vacation stays, guided hikes and more. This year's theme is 'taking care of what takes care of us', reflecting HHLT's mission to protect nature in Haliburton. To support, visit galabid.com.haliburton-highlands.

Nov. 28, 6 p.m. The first of Algonquin Highlands' three tree-lighting ceremonies takes place in Stanhope, outside the museum located at 1123 North Shore Rd. Come out and partake in some festive cheer. Celebrations also taking place in Dorset Nov. 30 at Centennial Lions Park at 4:30 p.m. and Oxtongue Lake Dec. 6 at 6 p.m.

Nov. 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Christmas Craft Sale at the Lloyd Watson Centre in Wilberforce. Vendors will be selling Christmas-themed crafts, gifts and baked goods. Contact Barb Schofield at 705-448-2598 or wilberforcebarb@yahoo.ca for more information.

Nov. 29, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Friends of the Haliburton County Public Library is hosting a Christmas book sale at the Dysart branch. Pick from your favourite genre – thrillers, mysteries, romance, biographies, and more. Cash or cheque only. Proceeds will support library enhancements and programs across the County.

Nov. 29, 2 p.m. A Concert of Hope at Lakeside Church in Haliburton. Join for an afternoon of hearing stories of how local youth have found hope through the Bridge Youth Centre. Enjoy music from Anna Morgan and Ella and Grant Gooley. Homemade treats will be available. Tickets by donation available at the door.

Nov. 29, 5 to 8 p.m. Candy Cane Craze Christmas Pop-up at Abbey Gardens. Enjoy some holiday fun for the whole family, with festive treats, local shopping, decorated Christmas trees, outdoor fire pits and more. Event also running Dec. 6.

Nov. 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Holiday Artisan Market at Stanhope Community Centre. Over 20 local artisans will have an array of homemade gift ideas for everyone on your list. Donations will be accepted on behalf of the Minden Community Food Centre.

Nov. 30, 2 p.m. Highlands Wind Symphony holiday concert at Pinestone Resort, featuring the Highlands Swing Band and vocalist Jerelyn Craden. Tickets are $15 each, or $30 per family. Text or call 705-457-0455 to reserve a ticket via e-transfer. Cash bar will be available.

Dec. 4, 1 p.m. The Minden Hills library is hosting a screening of Sons. The movie follows a new father from Newfoundland who wonders how to raise his son at a time when the concept of masculinity is being called into question. No registration required.

Dec. 4, 5 to 8 p.m. Ladies Shopping Night at Haliburton village. Get your Christmas shopping done early by checking out what Haliburton vendors are carrying for the holiday season.

Dec. 5-7, the sixth-annual Haliburton Winter Fair at Castle Antiques and Café. Featuring more than 40 vendors. Friday runs from 5-8 p.m. and features 'Tacos and Tunes'; Saturday is from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and includes free kids' activities and photos with Santa (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.); Sunday is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Gifts for Kids & Holiday Hampers

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Deadline is Dec. 5th

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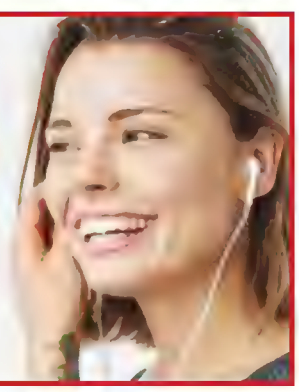

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Food banks are offering a helping hand

By Mike Baker

With about 1,000 people utilizing Haliburton County food banks each month, figureheads of the 4Cs in Haliburton, Central Food Network (CFN) in Highlands East, and the Minden Community Food Centre (MCFC) say there's likely to be a record-demand for Christmas hampers this festive season.

Judy MacDuff, manager of the 4Cs, said 2025 has seen another wave of new people relying on the food bank to get by. From March 1 to Oct. 31, the 4Cs served 1,683 households and 3,164 people

"Those numbers are just growing and growing every year," MacDuff said. "The last eight months, we've registered at least three people every month. One month, I actually had five new people in two days. They seem to come all at once."

She said the food bank has seen an influx of young people – late teens and 20s. "They just can't make ends meet," MacDuff said. She noted the 4Cs has served 919 children so far this fiscal year.

It's a similar story in Highlands East and Minden Hills, said CFN's Tina Jackson and MCFC's Jean Munroe, with their organizations also serving more people than ever before.

"We estimate between our three organizations, the food banks are feeding around 1,000 people every month. The need has never been greater," Jackson said. "People are struggling more and more to keep up."

Minden Community Food Centre's Jean Munroe expects another busy festive season. *File.*

Munroe added, "this year has been extremely challenging, with demand for our services rising faster than we can keep pace. My hope is that this surge is a temporary spike driven by the economy, and that we'll see relief in the new year."

With hundreds of Highlands families requiring a helping hand this holiday season, the food bank leads say they're in the thick of planning and preparing for next month's mass giveaway. The deadline to register for a holiday hamper, or equivalent gift card, is Dec. 5.

CFN will be giving out packages filled with turkey, ham, potatoes, stuffing mix, gravy, cranberry sauce, eggs, milk, bacon, juice, bread, cheese, butter/margarine and treats. There will be substitutes available for those with special dietary needs, Jackson confirmed. They will be available for pick-up the week before Christmas.

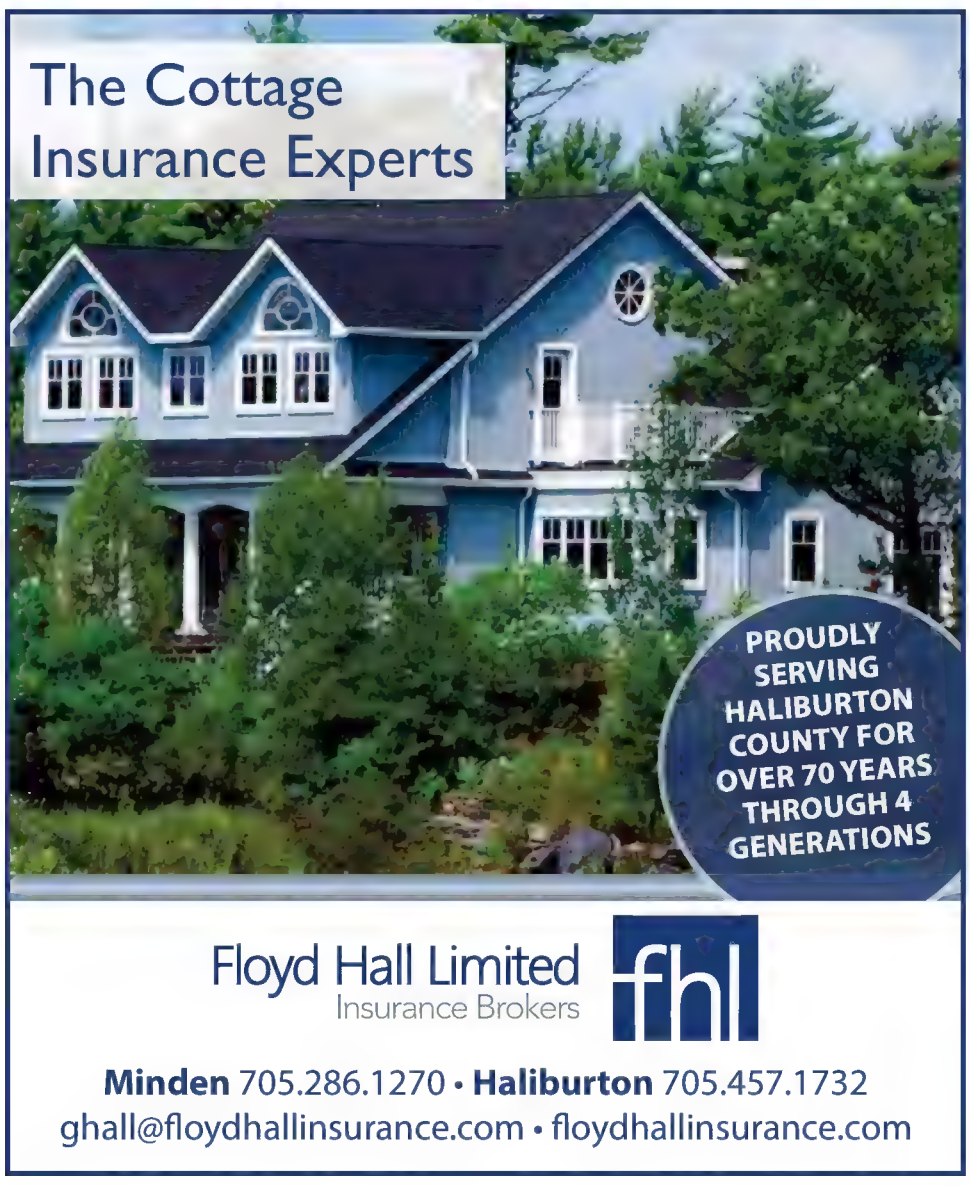
MCFC is offering a drive-thru service at S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena, Munroe said, with hampers including all the usual Christmas dinner fixings, and goodies for breakfast the next morning.

The 4Cs will be doling out Christmas vouchers, which can be used to pick-up groceries at Haliburton Foodland or Todd's Independent. MacDuff said the amount each household gets varies depending on the number of people living there. Collectively, 536 people were supported last year.

The food banks will also be giving out gifts for children, with CanoeFM and the Haliburton County Home Builders Association (HCHBA) running toy drives in the lead up to Christmas. The Canoe drive runs until Nov. 30, with people asked to drop donations off at the station. HCHBA will be collecting toys from 15 partnering businesses in Haliburton and Minden until Dec. 16.

Jackson and Munroe say they're specifically looking for items that can be gifted to older kids, anticipating that's where there will be the fewest donations but the highest need. Suggested donations include sports items, games, art supplies, small electronics, and gift cards.

Highlands East residents can register by calling 705-243-2419, Haliburton residents 705-457-3010, and Minden Hills residents 705-286-6838. For more information, visit foodbankshaliburtoncounty.ca.



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A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications clearly marked "Application – Part-Time, Property/Parks & Recreation Labourer" may be submitted on or before 12:00 p.m, Thursday, December 11th, 2025, via mail, in person, fax or email. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: bmccaw@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the CAO/Treasurer.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Brittany McCaw, CAO/Treasurer.

HELP WANTED

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the following position.

Public Works Supervisor

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 pm on December 12, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email: dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

DYSART ET AL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Digital Transformation Specialist
(13-month contract, full-time)

Due to an upcoming maternity leave, the Municipality of Dysart et al is seeking an energetic individual to join our team in the role of Digital Transformation Specialist. Salary range is $80,464 - $94,131 commensurate with skills and experience. A detailed job description is available at dysartetal.ca/careers for your review.

Interested applicants may submit their resume and cover letter to Sonja Marx at hr@dysartetal.ca, and indicate **Digital Transformation Specialist** as the subject. Applications must be submitted via email and may be accepted until 4:00 pm on Friday, November 28, 2025, with an anticipated start date of February 2, 2026.

We thank all of those who apply, but only those selected for an interview will be contacted. Accommodations for applicants with disabilities will be provided upon request. The Municipality of Dysart et al is an equal opportunity employer. Personal information is collected in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and will be used only for employment purposes.

Township of Algonquin Highlands

Township of Algonquin Highlands

We are currently accepting resumes for the following position:

Sewage System Program Inspector/Administrator

Visit our website at: www.algonquinhighlands.ca for the complete job description.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 5, 2025 to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
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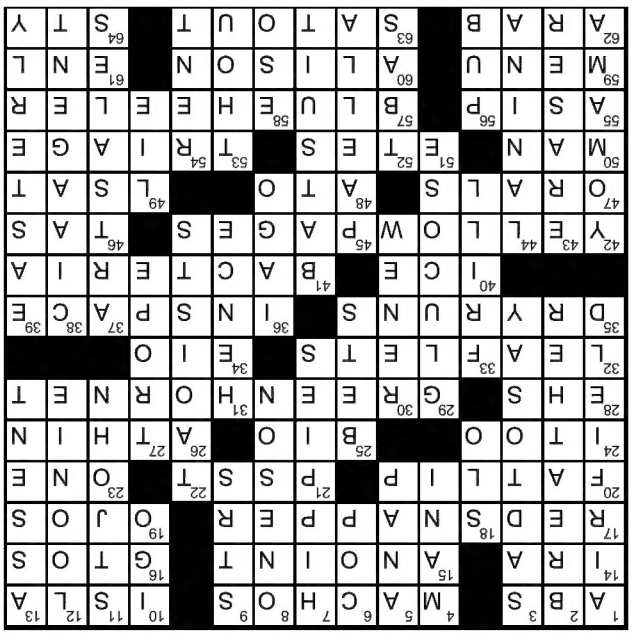

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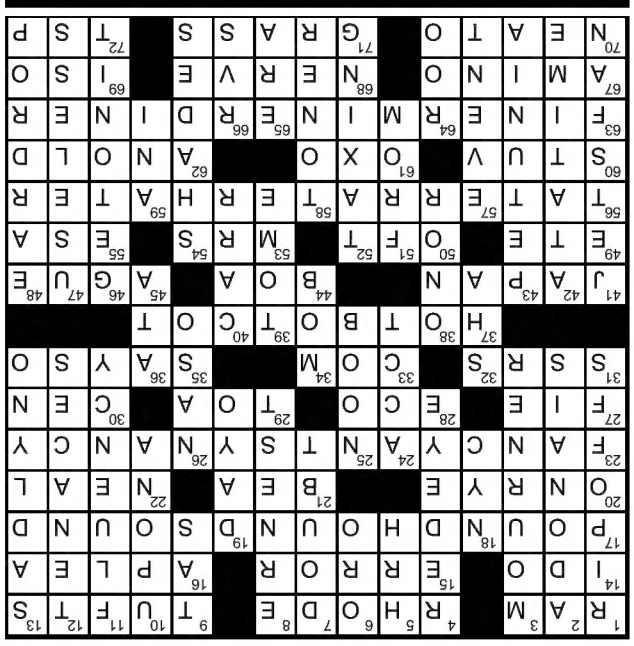

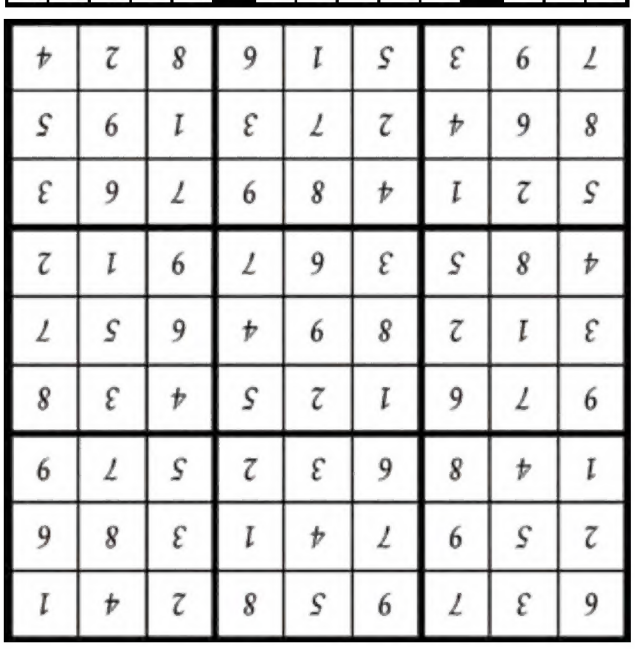

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Robert Diamond

Passed away peacefully at home on Friday, November 21, 2025 with his loving wife by his side, at the age of 73.

Loving husband of Janice Diamond (nee Kimble) for 47 years. Devoted father of Jeffrey (Rachael), Sean (Meghan), Christina (Dawson) and Papa to Grace, Jack and Joyce. Dear brother of Barbara Demchyshyn (Roman) and William Diamond (Rachel). Fondly remembered by his nieces, nephews, friends and family.

A Celebration of Robert's Life will be held at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, November 29, 2025 at 1:00 pm. A reception will follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

David William Burton

It is with profound sadness and heavy hearts that we announce the passing of David on Thursday November 20, 2025. Beloved husband and soulmate of Sandra Anne McArthur. Predeceased by his parents Tom & Eileen Burton and Bill & Eva McCormick. Survived by his cousin Ed, Sandi McDavid, the McArthur family, his feline friend Francine

David was a well-known presence in the community, having lived on the family farm all his life. He worked on the Trent Severn Waterway and also provided snow removal and grass cutting to many neighbours in the area. David was a very kind man and would do anything for anybody.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **COBOCONK COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME** 6644 Hwy. #35, Coboconk, Ontario (705) 454-3913 on Thursday afternoon, November 27, 2025 from 2-4 p.m. A Funeral Service will take place in the Chapel on Friday afternoon, November 28, 2025 at 1 o'clock. (Visitation two hours prior). Interment to follow at St. Thomas Anglican Church Cemetery, Kirkfield.

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Successful applicants will possess an DZ/AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. This position requires good judgment and communication skills and an ability to work on-call hours and respond to short notice call ins. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $29.17.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than December 4, 2025, at 4:30pm.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Highlander puzzles

Triple Rhyme Time

by Barbara Olson
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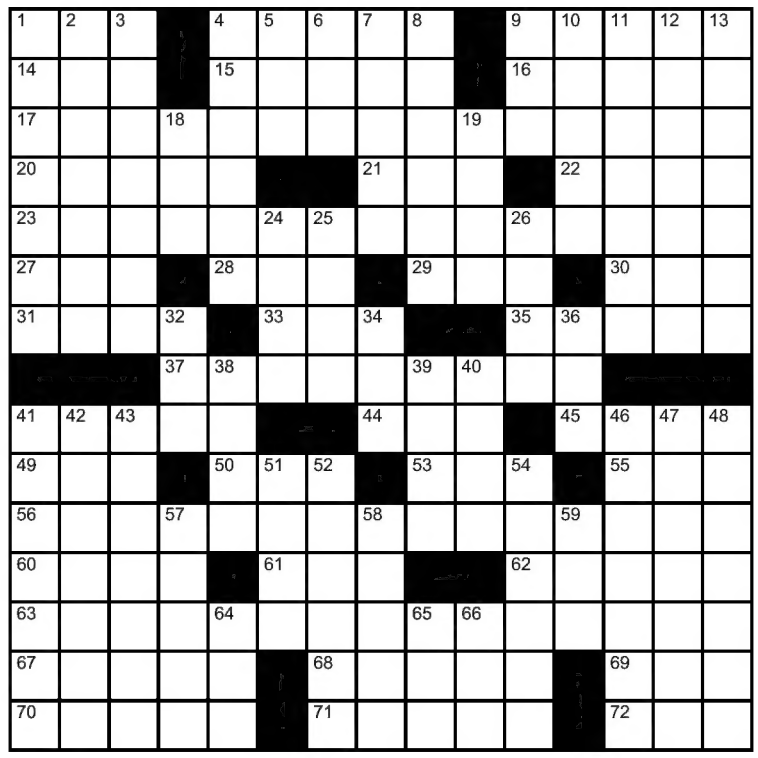

Across

1 Horned zodiac beast
4 ___ Island (small U.S. state)
9 Wispy clusters
14 "What can ___ for you?"
15 Perfect score spoiler
16 Cop ___ (try for a lighter sentence)
17 Barking in an animal shelter?
20 Ham sandwich order request
21 Dorothy player in "The Golden Girls"
22 "Hud" Oscar winner Patricia
23 Have a crush on Pelosi who's itching to go?
27 Shakespearean "tsk"
28 Cousin of enviro-
29 Burns' words with mouse or louse
30 The 10th began in 901: Abbr.
31 States under Stalin: Abbr.
33 Word with dot or rom
35 "... if I do ___ myself"
37 Where a sexy automaton sleeps?
41 Origami origin
44 Snake with tail legs
45 Sickness with chills
49 Troisième saison
50 Frequently, to Frost
53 She's no longer a miss
55 "The Grate One" Tikkanen
56 One who loathes a spud evaluator?
60 Run after R
61 Hug, kiss, hug
62 "You can't teach ___ dog..."
63 More elegant ore seeker's restaurant?
67 Protein-building acid
68 Sensitive spot in a tooth
69 Looking for, on Craigslist, for short
70 Retro "Sick!"
71 Wimbledon surface
72 5 ml. meas.

Down

1 Gouger's offers
2 Keats, in a Shelley title
3 One clad in black, maybe
4 Calgary ___ (supposed hangover cure with beer and clamato)
5 King Charles' title: Abbr.
6 Top medal in Spain
7 Skepticism
8 Actor Borgnine
9 Casual thank-yous, in Britain
10 "Once ___ Time in Hollywood" (Pitt film)
11 ESL student's aim
12 Interrupted pairs, as J-K, in bridge
13 "I'm afraid not"
18 Wall St. locale, for short
19 Belafonte's "Banana Boat" syllables
24 Bank statement fig.
25 Gaming greenhorn
26 Word form for "nose"
32 Rock group ___ Na Na
34 With "the," group with many hits?
36 Come ___ price
38 ___ about (ish)
39 Good book for a doorstop
40 "The Indian Church" painter Emily
41 Winnipeg hockey team cheerer
42 Sitcom title words after "One Day"
43 Pink/red garden perennial
46 "Quit procrastinating and start!"
47 Like a chocolate teapot, per a saying
48 Small squirt of canal cleaner
51 Gift tag word
52 Extremely trying
54 Some window dressing
57 In any ___ (either way)
58 Copier's need
59 Black-billed bird
64 A.A. Milne joey
65 Unique time period
66 Motorhomes, for short

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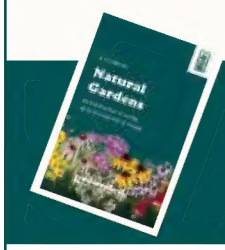

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